

# Dilemma: Confrontation

July 1 & 2, 2023

*All Bible passages are quoted from the New International Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.*

**BIG IDEA: Standing strong requires righteous confrontation.**

## **Two Confrontational Extremes:**

**UNWILLING to Confront**

**UNLOVINGLY Confront**

**Daniel 4:19-22,24-27** | <sup>19</sup> Then Daniel (also called Belshazzar) was greatly perplexed for a time, and his thoughts terrified him. So the king said, “Belshazzar, do not let the dream or its meaning alarm you.” Belshazzar answered, “My lord, if only the dream applied to your enemies and its meaning to your adversaries! <sup>20</sup> The tree you saw, which grew large and strong, with its top touching the sky, visible to the whole earth, <sup>21</sup> with beautiful leaves and abundant fruit, providing food for all, giving shelter to the wild animals, and having nesting places in its branches for the birds— <sup>22</sup> Your Majesty, you are that tree! You have become great and strong; your greatness has grown until it reaches the sky, and your dominion extends to distant parts of the earth. ... <sup>24</sup> “This is the interpretation, Your Majesty, and this is the decree the Most High has issued against my lord the king: <sup>25</sup> You will be driven away from people and will live with the wild animals; you will eat grass like the ox and be drenched with the dew of heaven. Seven times will pass by for you until you acknowledge that the Most High is sovereign over all kingdoms on earth and gives them to anyone he wishes. <sup>26</sup> The command to leave the stump of the tree with its roots means that your kingdom will be restored to you when you acknowledge that Heaven rules. <sup>27</sup> Therefore, Your Majesty, be pleased to accept my advice: Renounce your sins by doing what is right, and your wickedness by being kind to the oppressed. It may be that then your prosperity will continue.”

**1. Confront with RESPECT. (v.19)**

**2. Confront with PURPOSE.**

- **For Outsiders confront with the goal of SALVATION.**
- **For Insiders confront with the goal of RESTORATION.**

**Daniel 4:34** | At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation.

**Daniel 4:36-37** | <sup>36</sup> At the same time that my sanity was restored, my honor and splendor were returned to me for the glory of my kingdom. My advisers and nobles sought me out, and I was restored to my throne and became even greater than before. <sup>37</sup> Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything he does is right and all his ways are just. And those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

**NEXT STEP: Confront what is necessary in a loving and Godly way.**

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## Further Study & Discussion Questions

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### Getting to Know You:

Can you recall a time you've personally experienced healthy or unhealthy confrontations?

In your opinion, share with the group what made it healthy or unhealthy?

### Quick Review:

Was there anything about this week's message that was surprising to you? Was there a specific point or Scripture that made you want to elbow the person sitting next to you? Or maybe made them want to elbow you? What was the one thing you remember most from the message?

### Digging Deeper:

Read: **Daniel 4:19-27**

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Why do you think we struggle with confrontation so much today?

What are some practical steps we could take to get better at healthy confrontations?

When it comes to confronting culture, how might we do this in a healthy way?

How could you personally do this?

How might your friends and family practically do this?

What about your home church?

### Application:

Do you have any unresolved tension between someone else? Pray that God gives you the opportunity to address this in love and grace. Commit to getting involved with your church to stand alongside them in areas they are actively opposing culture.

*Jesus, help me have the courage and opportunity to confront certain areas in my life, whether that is culture or a personal relationship I'm currently holding bitterness or anger towards. Give me the love and grace needed to confront these in a healthy way.*